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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1904.

## The Situation at Port Arthur.

The reason for Japan's desperate ef-  
forts to take Port Arthur and the reason  
for General Stoessel's stubborn defense  
becomes apparent when it is understood  
that Port Arthur is the real key to the  
situation. This was admirably brought  
out in a recent article in the Scientific  
American, the author of which says that  
there is much more of method than of  
madness in the heroic stand taken by  
Stoessel and his gallant troops. He points  
out that General Stoessel has locked up  
three of the most important elements  
in the war, namely: The Russian fleet  
within Port Arthur, the Japanese blockad-  
ing fleet within the harbor and the  
Japanese army of investment of 60,000  
men. He says that at the present juncture  
there is no doubt that the Russian  
forces and the whole Russian plan of  
campaign are in an exceedingly  
critical condition, but that if the  
Russians can maintain the status quo  
for two or three months longer, the po-  
sition may be entirely reversed and  
Japan's opportunity for a successful  
prosecution of the war forever gone.

The Manchurian armies are about even-  
ly matched, and Japan has been unable  
to outflank the Russian army and secure  
a strong position across the railroad, cut-  
ting off the Russians from their base of  
supplies. It is fair to presume that in  
planning the campaign the Japanese  
strategists expected that by the time  
their Manchurian armies effected a juncture  
before Lao Yang, Port Arthur would  
have fallen and the army of investment  
would have been available to give Japan  
the numerical superiority necessary for  
a great turning movement. But Stoessel's  
resistance has prevented this, and  
every day that Port Arthur can hold out  
means the addition of so many thousand  
men, and so many scores of guns to the  
Russian forces, and the more complete  
development of a successive system of  
entrenchments to which the Russians  
can retire, should it become necessary  
to fight a series of rear guard actions.

The Baltic fleet is now on its way to  
Chinese waters, although it will be yet  
some time in arriving. The Russian  
ships at Port Arthur were recently dam-  
aged when they attempted to break out  
and it is supposed that necessary repairs  
were recently made. The Scientific Amer-  
ican reasons that when the fall of the  
fortress itself is imminent and these bat-  
tleships in danger of being sunk by high-  
angle fire, they will make another de-  
perate effort to break through Admiral  
Togo's fleet and reach the sheltering  
port of Vladivostok. "Every day that  
Stoessel can hold out," it proceeds, "is  
another day gained for putting these  
ships in condition for a running fight;  
and it is scarcely possible, even if the  
Russian fleet should be scattered or sunk,  
that Togo's battleships will come through  
the fight without more or less serious  
injury. If the dash for Vladivostok can  
be delayed for a few weeks longer, it  
will take place when the Baltic fleet  
is within less than a month's steaming of  
Port Arthur—all too short a time for the  
Japanese navy, worn as it is with the  
stress of a long blockade and just emerg-  
ing from a fight against a superior num-  
ber of battleships, to enter the dog dock  
in Japan and get in shape to meet a  
fleet of seven battleships, most of which  
are fresh from the builders' hands in the  
Baltic yards."

In June last the Yamato, one of the  
Japanese battleships, was sunk by a mine  
off Port Dalny, and the Potemkin, an-  
other one of the ships, has since been  
sunk. This left the Japanese with but  
three available battleships to oppose the  
five battleships in Port Arthur and the  
seven that are included in the Baltic  
fleet; and the longer that Stoessel can  
hold out at Port Arthur, the more will  
these three ships stand in need of re-  
pair. "If, on the other hand," the Sci-  
entific American concludes, "Port Arthur  
should fall tomorrow, Nogai's troops  
would be rushed to Mukden and the Rus-  
sian Manchurian army would in all prob-  
ability be driven back beyond Mukden if  
not into Harbin itself in a succession of  
flanking movements. Port Arthur would  
be closed to the Baltic fleet and the ships  
that sought shelter scattered or sunk  
while the Baltic reinforcements, should  
they determine to continue on their ris-  
ing, would find Admiral Togo's and Ad-  
miral Kamimura's combined fleets, fresh  
from a thorough overhauling at the Ja-  
panese dock yards, settle down to the  
blockade of Vladivostok—the only port in

which the newly arrived relieving fleet  
could hope to find harbor."  
That was the situation when the article  
under review was written. But since  
that time news has come from Port Ar-  
thur that all the Russian battleships there,  
together with the cruisers and two  
gunboats, have been sunk, or destroyed,  
leaving only the torpedo boats intact.  
This makes a most decided change in the  
situation, and the advantage is with  
Japan.

## A Crying Shame.

Our readers know right well that The  
Times-Dispatch feels a somewhat lively  
interest in the subject of contempt of  
court. The question was discussed in our  
columns when a Virginia judge hauled  
up an editor in contempt proceedings for  
having criticized in his columns the ac-  
tion of the court. It was again dis-  
cussed when a United States judge hauled  
up a North Carolina editor for a sim-  
ilar offense. In the course of the dis-  
cussion, we mentioned that a North Car-  
olina judge had once fined the keeper  
of the jail for contempt of court, be-  
cause he had permitted a flock of noisy  
geese to promenade and make merry in  
the court yard, thereby interfering with  
the orderly proceedings of the court and  
"obstructing and interrupting the admin-  
istration of justice." It is fair to explain,  
however, that in this case the court did  
not "summarily punish" until it had  
more than once served process upon the  
jailer, warning him that the defendant  
geese were knowingly, persistently and  
with malice aforethought committing a  
nuisance.

But the most interesting of all these  
proceedings in contempt is the case re-  
ported yesterday by our Danville cor-  
respondent, and reported more in detail  
in the columns of the Danville Bee of  
December 4th, as follows:

"In the Corporation Court this morn-  
ing Mayor E. Wooding was fined \$1  
for contempt of court. The chief execu-  
tive of Danville paid the fine imposed  
and left the court room shortly after the  
incident occurred. City Sergeant P. H.  
Blossau was fined in two instances to-  
day for allowing disorderly conduct in  
the room.

"Mayor Wooding walked in the court  
room wearing a new pair of shoes, and  
the noise made by crying of the foot-  
wear is probably what caused the fine  
on him to be imposed."  
Whether or not the fine imposed  
against the Mayor was compounded and  
included in the fine imposed against  
the sergeant for allowing "disorderly  
conduct in court," we are not informed,  
but it is enough to know that the judge  
of the Corporation Court of Danville  
holds crying shoes in contempt, and none  
the less so, perhaps all the more so,  
because they are worn and exploited  
by the honorable Mayor.

Nor do we know whether or not the  
court had warned the Mayor that his  
crying shoes were an offense to justice,  
and were interfering with the ordinary  
course thereof. But we are privately  
informed that the wearing of crying  
shoes is a habit into which the Mayor  
fell when he was an indiscreet youth,  
and from which he has never been able  
to break away. Indeed, our information  
is that the habit has become notorious  
in the community in which he has long  
lived, and where he is honored, beloved  
and well known, and it may be that in  
the eyes—or more properly speaking in  
the ears—of the court the offense was  
aggravated because of its extreme age.  
These observations are more or less  
speculative, but it is a fact that a pre-  
cedent has been established and all per-  
sons concerned may take warning. The  
court of Danville rules that crying shoes  
are forever to be held in contempt, and  
we hope that there will be no appeal  
from that righteous decision.

## Beth Abahab Temple.

Beth Abahab congregation worthily con-  
summated a high purpose and magnifi-  
cently executed a cherished design by  
consecrating its new temple last evening.  
Five years ago the present house of wor-  
ship was definitely decided upon, and  
during all that period the congregation  
in all its branches has labored together  
for the carrying out of that object. All  
of Richmond applauds the perseverance,  
admirable taste and rejoices in the re-  
sult that has crowned those efforts in  
their fruition with the perfect and com-  
pleted building, which has just been  
opened for regular use as a place of wor-  
ship.

Fifty-six years ago Beth Abahab con-  
gregation began its first temple, and in  
all those years the members of that con-  
gregation have been constantly and ac-  
tively identified with the best efforts of  
our city and State; their religion differ-  
ed, but their patriotism and citizenship  
were the same. No matter what other  
nations may say in Richmond, in Vir-  
ginia, in the South and in America, the  
Jew has never been a foreigner tem-  
porarily residing among us, but an ear-  
nest, helpful, respected and desired citi-  
zen.

Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State  
for the Confederacy, shows our appre-  
ciation of extraordinary ability, and the  
mute witness of the Confederate graves  
in the Jewish Cemetery bears eternal tes-  
timony to the patriotism of those citi-  
zens of the South who were faithful un-  
til death.

In every walk of life, in commerce, in-  
dustry, science, charity and all those  
activities which make real citizenship,  
the Beth Abahab congregation has borne  
itself in the light of the highest stand-  
ards, and for Richmond's sake, we trust  
that the new temple may incite in the  
coming generations those principles  
which have so signally and so justly  
characterized the builders, their fathers,  
as honored citizens of no mean city.

## Wall Street's Way.

The Wall Street traders may be bright  
men (and women), but when the silly  
season hits them they take the record  
for silly antics. Two days ago stocks  
were thrown upon the market without  
regard to value or price, and sold for  
anything they would bring. It mattered  
not whether the stocks were good, bad  
or indifferent, they were carelessly

dumped, and a novice would have sup-  
posed that the world was about to come  
to an end and every stockholder was try-  
ing to cash in and make ready for the  
final judgment. Traders behaved as  
panic-stricken people behave in a burn-  
ing building. The method of relief adopt-  
ed was the means of aggravating the  
situation and bringing the destruction  
which they would have averted—just as  
panic-stricken persons in a burning build-  
ing block the doorway and prevent them-  
selves from escaping.

But yesterday all was changed. Confi-  
dence was restored and stocks which,  
on the day before, were thrown away,  
were repurchased greedily upon rapid  
advances in price. There was no change  
whatever in the business situation; there  
was no change whatever in the value  
of stocks; there was no change in any-  
thing save in the notions and state of  
mind of the Wall Street traders.

But the lambs were sheared, and the  
shearers are preparing for another wool-  
gathering.

## A Message From Illinois.

The Legislature of Illinois at a recent  
session passed a bill declaring that when-  
ever the majority of voters in any coun-  
ty in which the Torrens system might  
have been adopted should so decide, "it  
shall be the duty of all executors and  
administrators, appointed after the adop-  
tion of this act, and trustees holding title  
or power of sale under wills admitted to  
probate after that date, to apply within  
six months after their appointment, to  
have registered the title to all non-regis-  
tered estates and interests in land, situ-  
ated in any county in which this act at  
the time is in force, within the several  
decadents they represent might have re-  
gistered in their lifetime in their own  
right."

During the recent presidential election  
the question of making the Torrens sys-  
tem compulsory in the case of the fidu-  
ciaries mentioned in this act, was sub-  
mitted to the voters of Cook county, in-  
cluding the city of Chicago.

Mr. Theodore Sheldon, a prominent  
lawyer in Illinois, and leader of the move-  
ment in behalf of the Torrens system,  
has written a letter to a friend in Rich-  
mond declaring the result of the elec-  
tion and making interesting comment. He  
says:

"The people of our county, by a vote  
of 235,000 to 26,000, declared in favor of  
the extension of the Torrens system and  
all executors and administrators appoint-  
ed hereafter will register the title to the  
lands of their estates. The effect will be  
to shorten the time when all titles will  
be registered. My only regret is that the  
original act of 1897 did not contain this  
requirement as to executors and adminis-  
trators, and thus have brought general  
registration some seven years earlier.  
And once I hope you all in Virginia  
will not fail to take notice of the sys-  
tem, since 1890, with but a voluntary use  
on the part of the owners, has grown  
steadily into favor. We now have some  
12,000 tracts of land under the act, with  
some 2,000 registered owners. They sell,  
mortgage and otherwise deal with their  
property with a degree of safety,  
rapidity and economy, entirely un-  
known under the old abstract of title  
system. The general popularity of the  
new method is best shown in the over-  
whelming majority for its compulsory use."

The advocates in Virginia of the sys-  
tem have never favored any such  
compulsory feature; nor was there any  
provision of that sort in the bill sub-  
mitted to the last Legislature of Virginia,  
which failed to pass the House of Rep-  
resentatives by only three votes. The  
vote of Cook county, however, shows that  
the people who have had the benefits of  
the system demonstrated by experience,  
are overwhelmingly in favor of requiring  
all titles to be registered.

The fight in Virginia for the Torrens  
system has only begun, and it will be  
kept up. The new Constitution confer-  
red express powers upon the General As-  
sembly to enact a law to put the system  
into operation in this State, and the next  
Legislature will be urged to follow in-  
structions.

Mrs. Yerke insists that she is the sister  
of Mrs. Chadwick. Whether or not the  
claim be well founded the reason for  
filing it with the public at this time is  
not apparent. In other words we do not  
quite understand why any respectable wo-  
man should wish to come out of obscurity  
just now and claim to be the sister of  
Mrs. Chadwick. But we do not pretend  
to understand women.

That Oberlin bank president who lent  
all the bank's available cash to Mrs.  
Chadwick is said to be prostrated on ac-  
count of the affair, and we believe it is  
quite understandable why any respectable  
woman should wish to come out of obscurity  
just now and claim to be the sister of  
Mrs. Chadwick. But we do not pretend  
to understand women.

Tariff revision and force bills and such  
like will probably give the Republican  
party a blow that the untimely death of  
Democracy was not able to hand it. Let Mr.  
Platt and these other fellows go right  
ahead and we shall see what we shall  
see.

Cotton raisers on one side and tobacco  
producers on the other have combined  
against the trusts, and now the proper  
thing to do is for the two combines to  
combine, on the idea that in union there  
is much strength.

Count Boni de Castellane is announced  
to fight a duel with somebody in Paris,  
but so far the announcement has had  
no effect on the Gould securities in this  
country.

Hog-killin' time, and plenty of hominy  
in old Georgia—Atlanta Constitution.  
Same right here in Old Virginia, thank  
you, as we have before observed.

According to the advance sheets and  
the fashion plates Santa Claus is coming  
in the same suit he wore last year.

And in the meantime Dr. Crum keeps  
drawing the pay, and that is just what  
he is there for.

Why not refer the Roosevelt-Boston  
Herald-turkey trouble to The Hague?

Commanding the Situation.  
The farmers of the South are really in  
position to hold their cotton for better  
than for ill. They are in a position to  
hold it for a year or more, and they  
should do so. Such a course now seems  
to be their only hope.—Columbus Ga.  
Sun-Enquirer.

"LAXO takes the place of calomel."

Trend of Thought  
In Dixie Land

Macon, Ga., Telegraph:  
It really costs 7 cents per pound to  
raise cotton in Georgia, then there is need  
for a greater economy among planters.

Columbia State:  
Governor Vardaman thinks that free-  
dom of speech and of opinion is being  
abridged in this country; so does the  
man who was arrested for "whooping  
him up" in the gallery of the House of  
Representatives. Some people mistake  
noise for speech.

Mobile Register:  
The President's message as a whole is  
well composed and upon a high plane.  
Recommendations as a rule are wise and  
patriotic. We must differ from him upon  
policy, regarding the Philippines, for ex-  
ample, but have nothing to say to the  
recent election answered all of our argu-  
ments in the negative, denying even if  
it did not disprove them.

Houston Post:  
We must give Mr. Roosevelt credit for  
being the first Republican politician who  
has even made the move to rivet the  
gold standard upon the country. The  
retirement of the greenbacks, which he  
recommends, and the making of the  
standard silver dollars redeemable in  
gold at the option of the holder, which  
he also recommends, are the first genuine  
move on the part of the Republican  
party looking to the establishment of  
the standard and putting it beyond ex-  
ecutive discretion.

Reduction of Southern Repre-  
sentation.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir: I have just read your article on the  
Republican party will reduce Southern  
representation in Congress. Let him dis-  
miss it as a chimera. If the Republican  
party fear Southern representation it  
would not hesitate to reduce, or even  
wipe it out altogether, because that party  
has the courage of its convictions and it  
will not hesitate to do it. It may wear a  
velvet glove, but underneath it is when  
necessary, an iron hand. If that party really  
fear Southern representation, they would  
not proceed much more summarily than  
it is now proceeding. It might, for ex-  
ample, and probably it would, declare  
that on account of disfranchising legis-  
lation the Southern States were not under  
a Republican form of government, and  
that therefore it should not be repre-  
sented at all until a republican form of  
government was established. It might  
also proceed to disfranchise the South  
by a vote of the people, and thus con-  
stitute a new Republic.

The Republican party has no fear  
of the reduction of Southern representa-  
tion. It would be that representation in-  
creased as much as Mr. Platt purposes to  
reduce it. On the contrary, Southern rep-  
resentation, as it is now, is a disgrace to  
the Republic. It is a disgrace to the Re-  
public because it is a disgrace to the Re-  
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At the government station, Lulea, in  
Sweden, experiments are being made to  
secure varieties of plants not likely to  
be injured by frost.

Dr. J. C. White, State geologist of West  
Virginia, has just returned from a tour  
he will examine and report on the coal  
fields of Rio Grande do Sul.

Sir Charles Dilke, in a paper read to  
the Young Liberals' League recently, said  
that while all other countries had  
armed their forces, there was not, with  
the exception of fifteen imperfect bat-  
teries hurriedly purchased in Germany  
during the Boer War, a single rifle in  
the possession of the British regular  
infantry.

William Evans, formerly protector of  
Chinese in the Straits Settlements, who  
was induced by the British government to  
go to South Africa to superintend the  
arrangements connected with the im-  
migration and housing of the Chinese in  
South Africa, refused to remain there.  
He said he would never consent  
to be a slave driver, and the Chinese  
working in South Africa were indescribable.

The Masonic Obligation.  
In France the other day a man, called  
as a witness in court, declared that he  
was a Mason. He was asked to take the  
Masonic oath, but he refused to do so,  
because it might require him to tell Ma-  
sonic secrets. The Grand Master of the  
Masonic Order in France wrote to the  
court stating that there was nothing in  
the Masonic oath which would prevent a  
witness from telling the whole truth and  
nothing but the truth.

The Oldest Tree.  
At Versailles is a pomegranate tree  
which is said to be the oldest in France.  
It is in an old orange grove and was  
planted in 1685. In exceptionally warm  
years the tree still puts forth a few flowers,  
but it has borne no fruit for many  
years.

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focus nearly half a century ago is un-  
doubtedly a radical difference as to the  
status of an inferior race in this coun-  
try. In all American history this is the  
greatest and most important of all is-  
sues; corollary issues, the institution of  
slavery and the proposition of disunion,  
we must all admit, have been definitely  
decided to the now almost universal  
satisfaction. The main question is in a  
more aggravated condition than ever,  
and is daily growing more so. Paper-  
lam, crime, slothfulness, general lack of  
ethical feeling is the natural result of  
the unrestricted liberty and spurious  
equality of a race that needs the super-  
vision and dictation of a superior race  
to even relatively conform to the con-  
ditions of civilization. This view of the  
status of that race must be generally  
accepted by all intelligent persons in the  
South, and the only illustrations of argu-  
ments against that view are the results  
of that abomination before God,  
miscegenation, where the attributes of  
the superior race are presented to it in  
a modified form as an evidence of the  
capability of an inferior race, a plain  
case of false pretenses.

In the face of the Republican position  
on this question, it is inevitable that  
the South supports the Democratic  
ticket, even though that support offers a  
slight relief, the only benefit a Demo-  
cratic victory would be to the South  
would be the moral influence upon the  
unhappy negroes.

The people of the South are in general  
an intelligent people, and their new-  
papers to the contrary notwithstanding;  
they do not follow Democracy through a  
definite knowledge of what is best  
for their own interests. Northern Demo-  
crats are inclined to accept the support  
of the "Solid South" with a patronizing  
indifference as an exhibition of child-  
like confidence.

A glance at the result of the electoral  
vote in the last election will show that  
the Southern States were the only States  
that supported the Democratic ticket.  
Therefore, they should have a correspond-  
ing influence in the councils of the Demo-  
cratic party.

The South appreciates its condition,  
and knows its people. Every citizen re-  
cognizes that the Republican party from  
its inception was radically wrong and  
that the Fourteenth and Fifteenth  
amendments constitute the most colossal  
and egregious blunder in known history.  
He knows the truth and has no reason  
to fear to proclaim it. The Democratic  
party is apparently searching for prin-  
ciples and policies, but it does not need  
to have them in plenty, but fails to ex-  
press them. "Truth is mighty and must  
prevail," and there are plenty of  
intelligent and conscientious people in  
the North who will recognize the truth  
if it is brought forward. The duty of the  
southern man is to boldly proclaim his  
underlying principles and motives, and  
trust to Providence for the result.

The writer is of a Southern birth, is of  
foreign parentage, and has no hereditary  
connection with other side of the great  
American struggle, but bases his opinions  
on observations of the incongruous and  
unscientific composition of American citi-  
zenship.

ROBERT FAWCETT, M. D.,  
No. 550 Mosher Street, Baltimore, Md.

## Personal and General.

Mrs. James Brown Potter has just pro-  
duced in London a dramatic version of  
the opera, "I Pagliacci." The play was  
well received.

An interesting presentation will be made  
to the President the last of this week by  
some scientific men of Prussia. It is a  
man made in Prussia, and is the first  
known upon which the name "America"  
was used.

Rev. Charles H. Stackpole, pastor of the  
First Methodist Episcopal Church, of  
Melrose, Mass., has suggested to his con-  
gregation the advisability of installing  
telephones in every pew in church so that  
the members of the church will be able to  
hear the sermon without trouble.

Miss Florence Hayward, who had su-  
pervised the collection and collation of  
the historic documents and relic  
exhibits of the St. Louis Exposition, has  
been signally honored by the French  
Government by being named an honorary  
member of the French Academy of Sciences  
and of the French Academy of Letters.

Surgeon-General Rixey, United States  
Navy, enjoys the distinction of having  
been decorated by the King of Spain be-  
cause of services to officers and men of  
the Spanish fleet during the war with  
the United States. He was decorated on  
the occasion of the fatal explosion on that  
ship. The Admiral is further honored in  
occupying the highest post a nation can  
offer a physician, that of medical ad-  
viser to the President.

## A Few Foreign Facts.

At the government station, Lulea, in  
Sweden, experiments are being made to  
secure varieties of plants not likely to  
be injured by frost.

Dr. J. C. White, State geologist of West  
Virginia, has just returned from a tour  
he will examine and report on the coal  
fields of Rio Grande do Sul.

Sir Charles Dilke, in a paper read to  
the Young Liberals' League recently, said  
that while all other countries had  
armed their forces, there was not, with  
the exception of fifteen imperfect bat-  
teries hurriedly purchased in Germany  
during the Boer War, a single rifle in  
the possession of the British regular  
infantry.

William Evans, formerly protector of  
Chinese in the Straits Settlements, who  
was induced by the British government to  
go to South Africa to superintend the  
arrangements connected with the im-  
migration and housing of the Chinese in  
South Africa, refused to remain there.  
He said he would never consent  
to be a slave driver, and the Chinese  
working in South Africa were indescribable.

The Masonic Obligation.  
In France the other day a man, called  
as a witness in court, declared that he  
was a Mason. He was asked to take the  
Masonic oath, but he refused to do so,  
because it might require him to tell Ma-  
sonic secrets. The Grand Master of the  
Masonic Order in France wrote to the  
court stating that there was nothing in  
the Masonic oath which would prevent a  
witness from telling the whole truth and  
nothing but the truth.


The Oldest Tree.  
At Versailles is a pomegranate tree  
which is said to be the oldest in France.  
It is in an old orange grove and was  
planted in 1685. In exceptionally warm  
years the tree still puts forth a few flowers,  
but it has borne no fruit for many  
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## A MATTER OF HEALTH



# ROYAL

# BAKING

# POWDER

Absolutely Pure

## HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

## DECEMBER 10TH IN WORLD'S HISTORY

1681.  
The British Factor, Captain Drew, arrived at Chester, on the Delaware River, from England, with settlers for Pennsylvania; they remained there all winter, the river having frozen over that night.
1807.  
The peace of Ryswick, which had been signed in September, proclaimed in Boston, and the colonies had repose from war.
1804.  
New York Historical Society instituted.
1807.  
Kingdom of Etruria dissolved and annexed to France.
1813.  
The United States troops, under General McClure, burned Newark, adjoining Fort George, destroyed that fort, removed the public stores and retired to the south side of the Niagara River.
1817.  
Mississippi admitted into the Union as a State.
1835.  
The fortress of San Antonio surrendered by the Mexicans to the Texans, under Colonel Milan; the captors found 1,900 rounds of powder and ball, twenty-four pieces of cannon and a large amount of military stores.
1848.  
Louis Napoleon elected President of the French, 5,534,520 voters voting